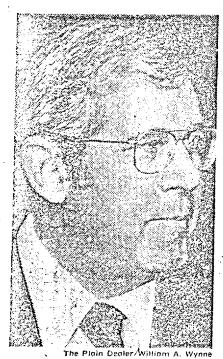
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E. Henry Knoche

Talk of CIA once taboo, its No. 2 man says here

By W. Joseph Campbell

E. Henry Knoche, the No. 2 man at the Central Intelligence Agency, was in town last night to do what he's done eight or nine times the past year: Tell people, generally, how the CIA operates.

He tries to knock down what he called the James Bond image that the CIA is a glamorously furtive agency of spooks and provocateurs, saying, "Our basic function is to make informed judgments and forecasts about foreign situations."

Turns out, though, that Knoche is a little furtive himself. He spoke last night to the Reserve Officers Association, Cleveland Army chapter, at the Holiday Inn at E. 22d St. and Euclid Ave.

He checked into a room on the motel's 12th floor about 4:30 p.m. and his public affairs aide insisted he was registered. But motel officials said they had no record about Knoche being there.

Knoche's aide said it was no big issue, stressing, "He is registered... Maybe they're just trying to be discreet."

Whatever, Knoche, 52, said his visit here was part of the CIA's effort to

explain, in the wake of unprecedented controversy and congressional scrutiny the past few years, "what the nation's intelligence is and what it isn't." Before the attention, he said, public discussion about the CIA by the CIA was never considered.

Although he said disclosures about CIA operations have hurt efforts to collect information, Knoche wouldn't say where or how.

Nor would he talk about allegations that the CIA has for years made payments to foreign leaders in keeping with intelligence-gathering.

And, in a brief interview before his speech, Knoche shrugged off charges of abuses by the agency, detailed in a 2,000-word letter by former agent John R. Stockwell.

He said Stockwell's statements have been studied and found baseless.